

Comment submitted to Ecology by rain garden property owners

February 3, 2012

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I SUPPORT STORNG STORMWATER PERMIT LANGUAGE THAT includes specific requirements for developers to avoid destruction of native plants and reduces total paved surfaces on building sites; eliminates loophole for developers, strengthens requirements for "watershed" approaches; protects forested areas and green spaces.

I WAS INSPIRED TO BUILD MY RAIN GARDEN. I was in the process of designing a 5 star Built Green House on our empty lot adjacent and downhill from our existing home in Edmonds when we got to the part where we had to decide what to do with the rainwater that falls on that site. The question came up "where does the rainwater go that runs off of the roof of your existing home and impervious surfaces?" Well, some of it went into downspouts and into the storm sewer; however most of it was piped into the bank and ran off into the empty lot along with all the runoff from the big driveway we put in some years ago. In other words, the empty lot with all it's vegetation was handling the storm water. What would happen once the new house was built? Something had to be done to address the majority of storm water off our our roof. Why not do it nature's way and return it into the ground? This idea was suggested by our rain garden specialists. It made total sense and was the responsible thing to do. We even got to be in the Snohomish County LID tour last March so we could share our rain gardens with everyone who came by. They were a big hit! **THE BENEFITS FROM MY RAIN GARDEN** eliminates and reduces stormwater runoff from properties and enhances the aesthetics of the community. They reduce stormwater flow by infiltrating and dispersing stormwater. This helps to improve stream water quality by eliminating high flow runoff during storms that scour, erode, and damage our local streams. Rain gardens help reduce your water pollution footprint and reduce flooding, while beautifying your yard. Why wouldn't everyone want to do this? It's the best thing we've done in our yard in the 25 years we've lived in our home. We are directing 100% of our roof runoff, first to rainwater cisterns and then to our 2 rain gardens (front and back) once they're full. **"The size of my rain garden is approximately 1100 sq ft and the primary source of water entering my rain garden is from the roof.**



